SPECS
Climate Prediction for Climate Services: Highlights

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SPECS
Seasonal-to-decadal climate Prediction for the improvement of European Climate Services

SPECS motivation

What: to produce quasi-operational and actionable local climate information

Why: need information with improved forecast quality, a focus on extreme climate events and enhanced communication and services for RCOFs, NHMSs and a wide range of public and private stakeholders

How: with a new generation of reliable European climate forecast systems, including initialised ESMs, efficient regionalisation tools and combination methods, and an enhanced dissemination and communication protocol

Where: over land, focus on Europe, Africa, South America

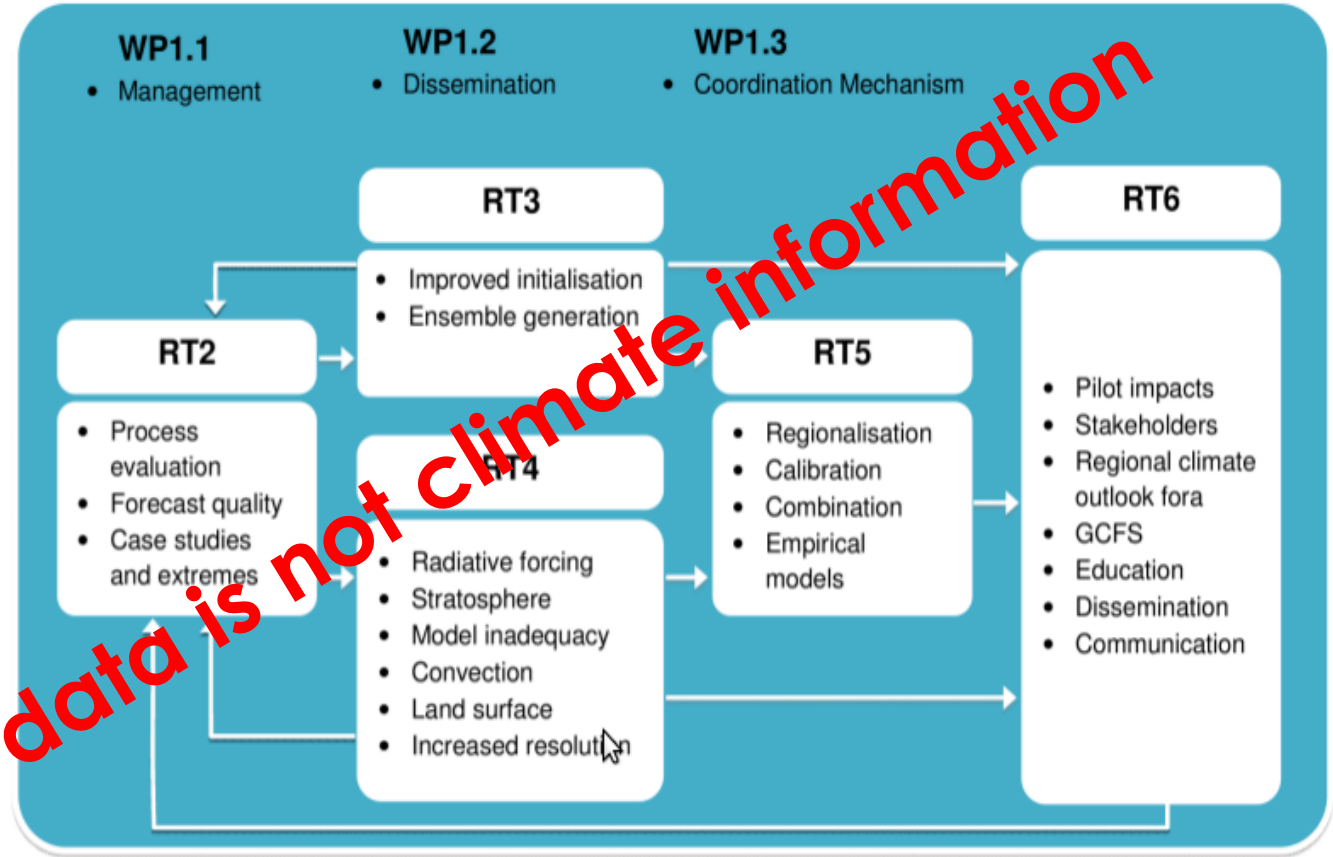
When: seasonal-to-decadal time scales over the longest possible observational period

http://www.specs-fp7.eu

SPECS Overview

Strong links to EUPORIAS, but also NACLIM, IS-ENES2, PREFACE, …

Forecast System	Project Partners
CNRM-CM5	CNRM, CERFACS
EC-Earth	KNMI, SMHI, BSC, ENEA
IFS/NEMO	ECMWF, UOXF
IPSL-CM5	CNRS
MPI-ESM	MPG, UniHH
UM	UKMET



Climate data is not climate information

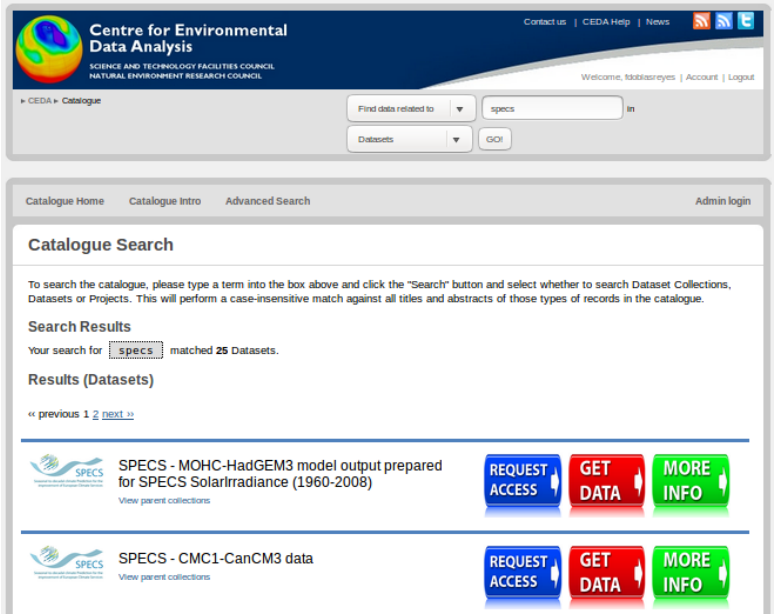
WP1.1: Management
WP1.2: Dissemination
WP1.3: Coordination across EUPORIAS, NACLIM & SPECS
RT2: Evaluation of current s2d forecast systems
RT3: Forecast strategies
RT4: Improved systems
RT5: Calibrated predictions at the local scale

Coordinated experiments

Tenths of climate prediction experiments, seven models, with different configurations and parameterisations

Focus on both skill improvements and processes (case studies)

130 TB of output (and growing), most of it available from ESGF (a primer in climate prediction), curated in the long term

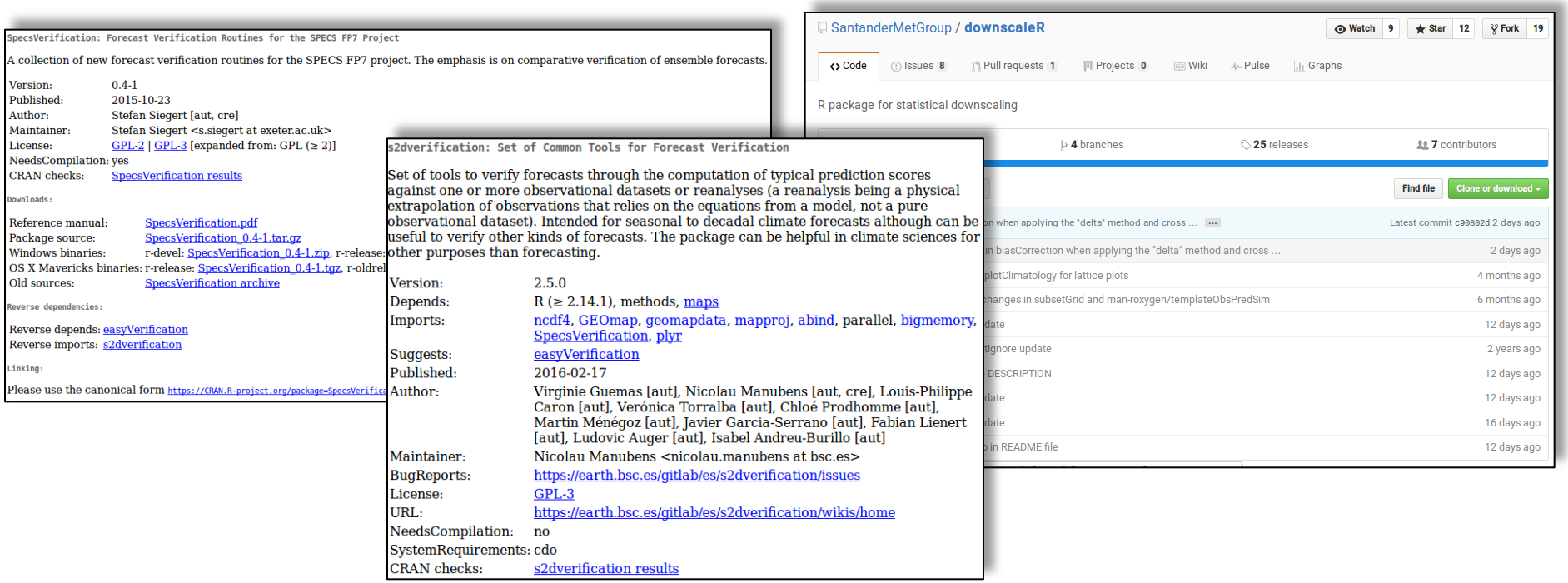


Data management and experiment documentation are fundamental. They shouldn't be underestimated

Open access tools

Portals are useful, but open access tools allow to go beyond what is initially considered by portal developers

The packages created in SPECS can be better adapted to address specific problems in an interaction with the users



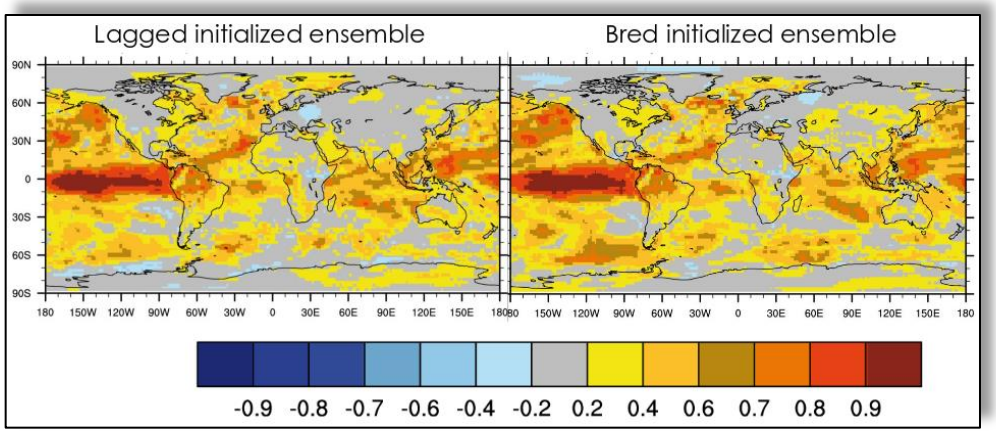
There is no magic recipe, users should be accompanied to make an efficient use of these tools

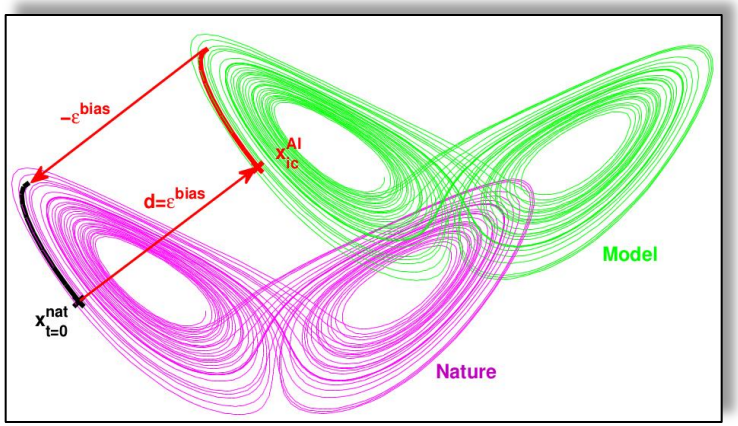
Forecast initialisation

Initialisation matters, but the initialisation problem is far from being resolved; the initial condition uncertainty remains large (ocean, land surface and sea ice); better use of data assimilation techniques is needed

The forecast drift is a huge problem that has been characterised; some links between drift and skill have been identified

Simplified models can be very useful to explore solutions like coupled initialisation



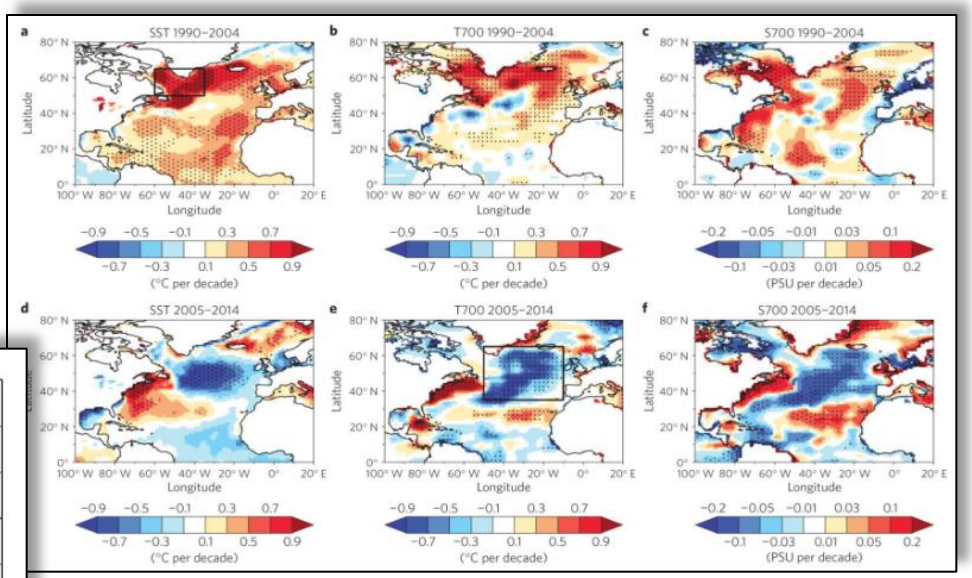


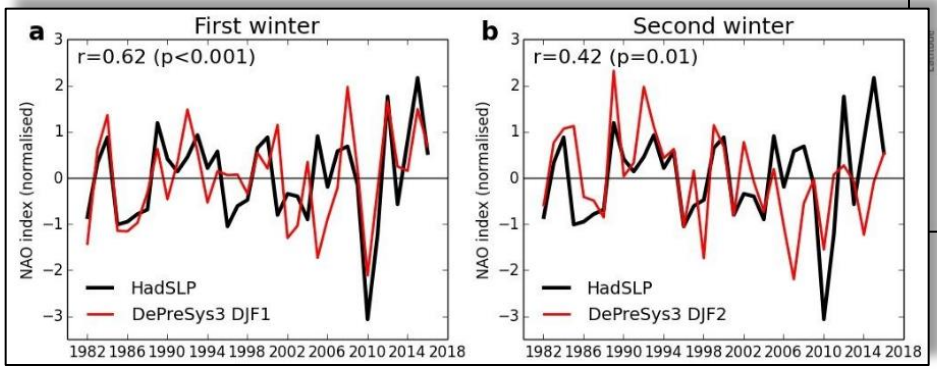
Models predict in a non-stationary state (because of the drift) and the systematic error is too large at times to benefit from good initial conditions

Process understanding

Case studies based on observed extreme events (European summer 2003 and 2010, North Atlantic warming and cooling) have been analysed

Interesting sources of predictability for some events have been identified



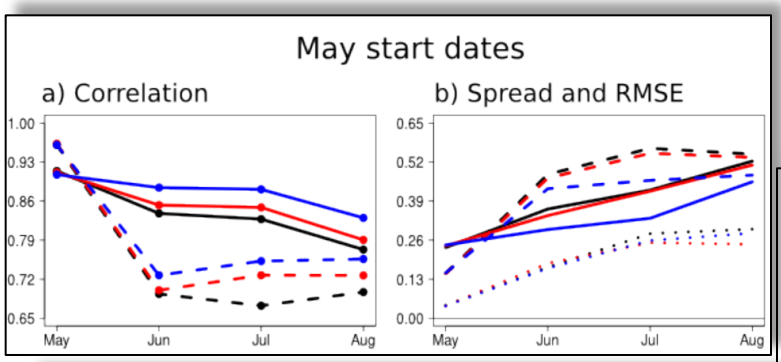


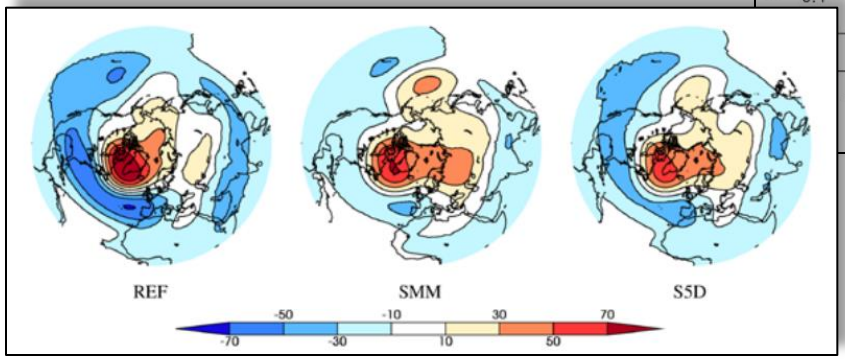
The process-based analysis of hits, misses and false alarms help improving the forecast systems if it is done in a coordinated multi-model context

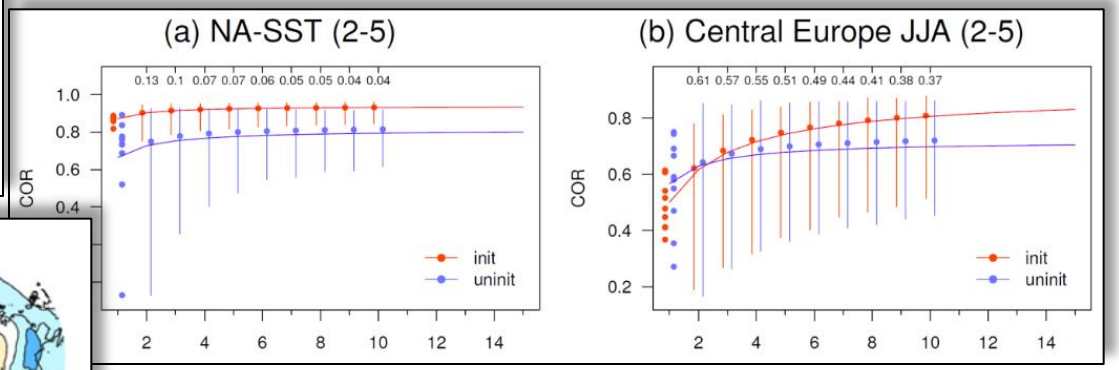
Better forecast systems

Improvements in the resolution, vegetation treatment, stochastic parameterisations, initialisation, sampling (ensemble and hindcast size), …

Improvements in forecast quality are found, but statistical significance is an issue



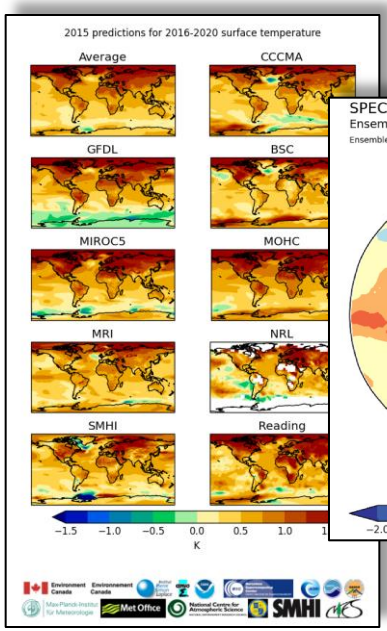


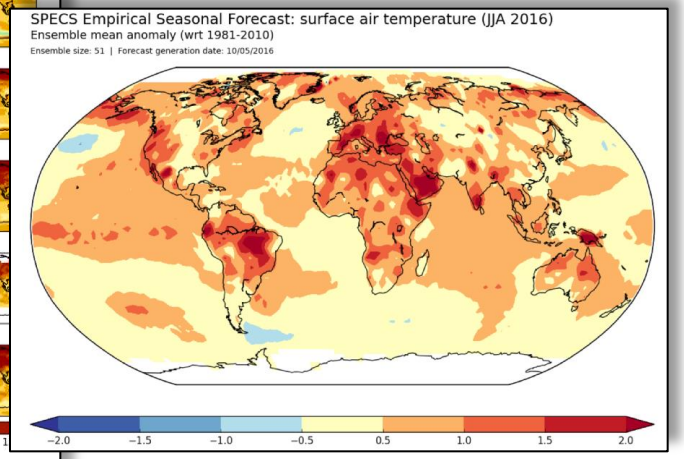


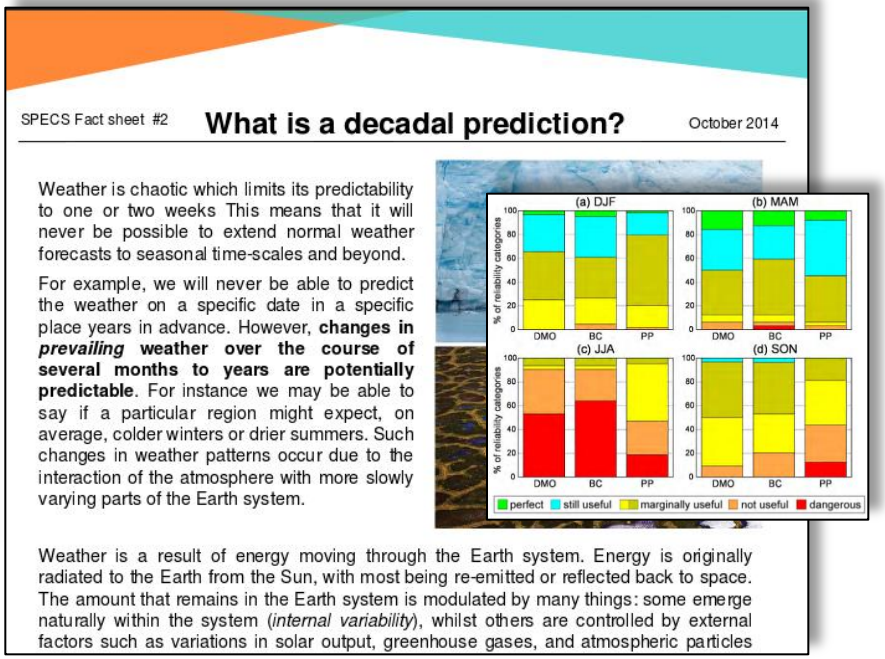
Improving the forecast systems takes long time; need to focus on those aspects that have a stronger impact for a wide range of users (e-g- NAO)

Much more than global models

The operationalisation of decadal forecasts, the creation of robust empirical benchmarks, the exhaustive illustration of the (limited) benefits of downscaling and model combination, the generation of entry-level documentation, have been rewarding aspects of the project activity







Multidisciplinarity is fundamental in climate services, and this should include climate modellers and forecasters, which requires profiles that are not readily available

Legacy

SPECS has tried to make a difference in engaging with multiple communities like WCRP (WGSIP drift project), Polar Prediction Project (role of sea ice and snow in climate prediction), GFCS (tools and examples for the RCOFs), Copernicus (verification and standards), …

Copernicus
Europe's eyes on Earth

YOPP
YEAR OF POLAR PREDICTION

GFCS GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES

The sustainability of the outcome of research projects in an international context can be ensured by the operationalisation of their conclusions

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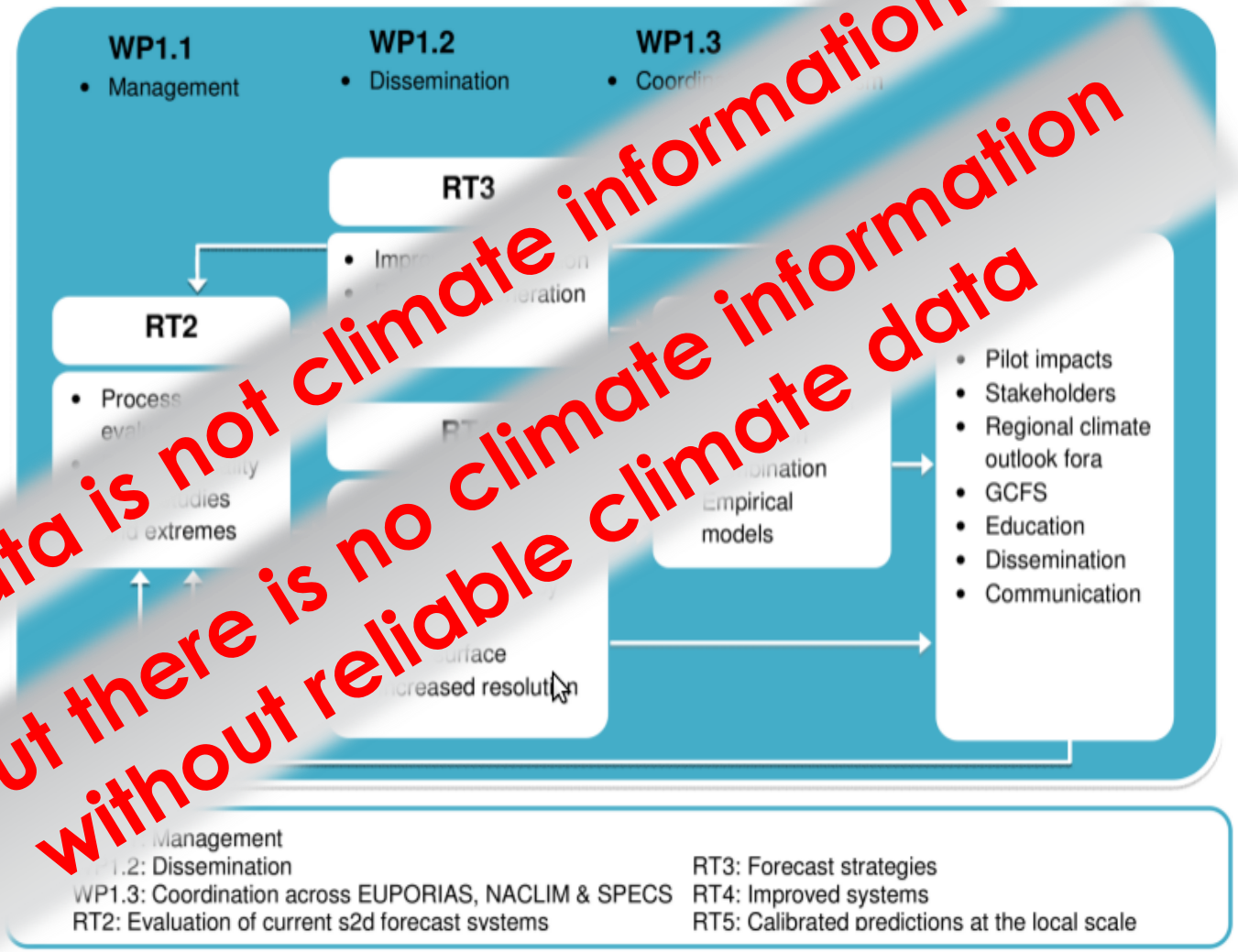

Climate data is not climate information … but there is no climate information without reliable climate data

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